

Preliminary Amendment

BY EXPRESS MAIL #EL988192850US

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Patent

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Masaki SHIMADA et al.

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

S I R:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.